A True

NARRATIVE

OF

All the PROCEEDINGS

AGAINST

The Weavers,

At a Court of *Oyer* and *Terminer*, held at Justice-Hall in the *Old-Bayly* upon the same occasion, On Thursday the 16th of *September* 1675.

With an Account of the manner of their Deportment there, and also of the Punishments allotted them for their Offence.

How many are to be fined, and how many to stand in the Pillory.

London: Printed in the Year 1675.

1132. L79

A True

NARRATIVE

OF

All the PROCEEDINGS

AGAINST

The Weavers,

At a Court of *Oyer* and *Terminer*, held at Juſtice-Hall in the *Old-Bayly* upon the ſame occaſion, On Thurſday the 16th of *September* 1675.

With an Account of the manner of their Deportment there, and alſo of the Puniſhments allotted them for their Offence.

How many are to be fined, and how many to ſtand in the Pillory.

London: Printed in the Year 1675.

A T

N A R R A T I V E

OF

All the PROCEEDINGS

AGAINST

The Weavers,

At a Court of Oyer and Terminer, held at Justice-Hall in the Old-Bay, upon the One-ninth Session.

On Thursday, [illegible] of September, 1675.

With an Account of the manner of their Department there, and also of the Punishment altered them for their Offence.

How many are to be fined, and how many to stand in the Pillory.

London: Printed in the Year 1675.

A True

NARRATIVE

OF

All the PROCEEDINGS

AGAINST

The Weavers.

IT is ſufficiently known to moſt perſon about this Citty, what great miſchief and diſorders happened by the Inſurrection of the *Weavers* in *Auguſt* laſt, not only to the breaking of the publick Peace, but to the great damage of ſeveral perſons whoſe Looms and Inſtruments of Trade they forcibly took away from them and burned.

Great care was then taken by the worthy Sheriffs and other Magiſtrates of the City, by all

fa'r means at firſt, if poſſible, to ſuppreſs them, and to perſwade them to be quiet; and that if they were grieved as they pretended they were, they ſhould take what remedy the Law would allow them, and not perſiſt to diſturb the Peace of the City: but when ſuch ſofter allays could not aſſawage the Calenture of their raging fury, but they perſiſted day after day in continual Tumults to proſecute their Riotous deſignes, ſome of the principal of them were taken and committed to ſeveral Priſons, in order to be proceeded againſt by Law, for an Example and warning to others that ſhould offend in the like nature.

And to this end a Court was held by ſpecial Commiſſion of *Oyer* and *Terminer* at Juſtice Hall in the *Old-bayly* upon Thurſday the ſixteenth of *September* Inſtant, for the Tryal of the ſaid Malefactors, where were preſent ſeveral Juſtices and other Magiſtrates.

After the Commiſſion read, the Priſoners were Arraigned, and then the Jury were called, which conſiſted of Eſquires and Gentlemen of good Quality; and as they were called over, the Priſoners being Eleven in number, ſtanding at the Bar, had liberty given them to make their Challenges; after which the Jury being ſworn, the other ten were withdrawn, and the eleventh continuing at the Bar, they proceeded firſt againſt him, and the Indictment read, which was to this Effect: *That he with ſeveral other perſons*

to

to a great number, did Riotously assemble together upon the nine and tenth of August, *and did break open the houses of one J. M. and C. and took away and burned their Goods, to the great disturbance of the Peace,* &c. after which the Kings Council opened the Charge, and the Witnesses were sworn, which were the aforesaid *C.* and *M.* with several other persons, who by their Evidence did satisfie the Court the prisoner was one of the Rabble, who were about an hundred in number; and that he with the rest, were out on Munday and Tuesday the ninth and tenth of *August*, and that he was one of them that laid hand on their Goods, and was aiding and assisting to the burning of them. This Evidence was proved against him. Notwithstanding he began a plausible story for himself, as that he kept in all day on Munday, and that on Tuesday he was with the Constable on the Watch till four in the afternoon, and then in his way homewards lighting on the place where the said Rioters were assembled neer the house of the said *C.* and an out cry being made as if some Murder were done in the house, the said *C.* desired that he and two other men would come into his house to be witnesses what the matter was, where they found all things peaceable and quiet; and that then he and the said *C.* went to drink together; and that by his own confession he got the said *C.* to give a Bill of the Penalty of one hundred pound that he should never use the Engine as they call'd it, any more; which Bill

was

was read in the Court, and it appeared that upon his giving of the ſaid Bill, the Rioters departed; by which, and other circumſtances, the Court obſerved that this man was a principal Ring-leader of the Faction.

After his Trial was over, another was called: it appeared by the Evidence that he alſo was one of the number; and that although he did not lay violent hands on the Looms that they had taken, yet that he had perſwaded the party from whom they were taken, to deliver them up into their hands, to avoid the trouble of having them taken from him; which the Court ſaid was all one to make him guilty with the reſt, for that he might be perſwaded to, out of fear of worſe miſchiefs that they might do to him; And that to be preſent in any ſuch Riotous meeting, and not to indeavour to ſuppreſs them, or be in the leaſt abetting to them, was ſufficient to make a perſon Equally Guilty with them.

After this, two more were called up; one of them carryed himſelf very Inſolently, and ſtood upon his Juſtification, although the Fact with which he was Charged, which was of the ſame Nature with the former, was Evidently proved againſt him. It is Obſervable, that the Court of their abundant Clemency towards the Priſoners, indeavoured both with him, and the former Priſoners to bring them to an ingenuous Confeſſion of their Faults without troubling the Court with bringing Proofs (which were not wanting) againſt them,

acquainting

acquainting them, That the King of his gracious Clemency to them, had ordered the Indictments to be ſuch, as ſhould neither extend to Life nor Member, but only Treſpaſs; And that if they would ingenuouſly Confeſs the Matters Charged againſt them, and humble themſelves to the Court, they ſhould find the more Favour: upon which, One of the Two laſt mention'd Priſoners fell on his Knees and beg'd Mercy, confeſſing his Indictment, and ſo did two others after him; which carriage of theirs, the Court was pleaſed to take into Conſideration, and it fared the better with them. The reſt ſtood upon their Tryal, and their ſeveral Facts proved againſt them, which being for the manner much of the ſame Nature of the former, it would be too tedious to recount the Particulars. In fine, therefore, after a full hearing of the ſeveral Evidences againſt them, and what they could ſeverally ſay in their own Defence (in which the Court gave them a great deal of Liberty, the Jury went upon their Verdict, and returned them all Guilty; upon which the Court broke up for the Forenoon.

In the Afternoon after the Court had diſpatch'd ſome other buſineſs the Priſoners were again call'd to the Barr to receive their Sentence, in which the Court firſt acquainting them of the Notoriouſneſs of the Crimes they had been Convicted of, told them next, what Penalty they had thereby made themſelves lyable to: that the

ſame

same might have been made *High Treasons*, and they therefore have suffered as *Traytors*: But that his Majesty of his Gracious Goodness had been willing to dispence with the Rigor of those Sanguinary Laws, and to suffer them to be proceeded against upon such Indictments as should indanger neither Life nor Member; And therefore that those Three Persons who had Confest their Indictments, and submitted themselves to the Court, should be Fined Twenty Marks apiece, to lye in Prison till their Fines were paid, and to be bound to their Good Behaviour for their Lives. And for the other Eight, for their Contumacy, they were thought worthy of a greater Punishment; and so were Fined Five hundred Marks a Man, to lye in Prison till their Fines were paid; to stand three several Dayes on the Pillory; to find Sureties for their good Behaviour for their Lives. After which Sentence Pronounced, in a little time the Court broke up, and the Sessions concluded.

FINIS.

dis
1988